

# UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS **ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS GUIDE**

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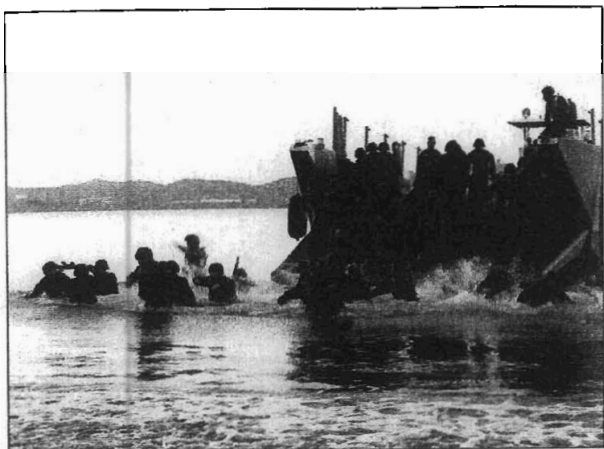
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## United States Marine Corps **ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS GUIDE**

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## INTRODUCTION

U.S. MARINES ARE THE FOREMOST EXPEDITIONARY combat force because we train in realistic environments that simulate every climate and terrain in which a Marine can expect to encounter the enemy. The forests, mountains, jungles, deserts, and amphibious and urban landscapes that make up our bases and stations cover 2.3 million acres of land. These are the places where we live, train, maintain our aircraft, vehicles and equipment and from where we deploy our combat forces.

Marine Corps Environmental Compliance, Pollution Prevention, and Conservation programs support the Marine Corps mission by preserving and maintaining these lands and managing protected resources. Environmental programs protect the health of our Marines, their families and our workforce. These programs ensure we comply with the laws that protect the quality of the water that we drink, the air we breathe, and the land where we live and train.





## THE MARINE CORPS ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (EMS)

THE MARINE CORPS EMS PROVIDES A STRUCTURED FRAMEWORK for effective, efficient, and continually improving environmental management, emphasizing training opportunities provided by CETEP, the USMC environmental training program. The EMS enables the Marine Corps to meet environmental goals and requirements while maintaining mission readiness. There are five components that make up the Marine Corps EMS: *policy*, *plan*, *implement*, *monitor*, and *review*. These components are integrated to promote continual improvement of our environmental programs.



Marine Corps *policy* is to comply with environmental requirements, prevent pollution, and properly manage our natural and cultural resources. *Planning* identifies mission-supporting practices that do or may impact the environment, and controls to minimize those impacts. Controls are communicated and *implemented* through training and process improvement. Environmental performance is *monitored* through inspections and evaluations. We can continually improve our training and performance by *reviewing* and adjusting our training, procedures, and actions.

Each Marine, civilian, and visitor on any Marine Corps installation is responsible for performing their mission and daily actions in an environmentally compliant manner. This guide will provide a general awareness of environmental responsibilities that might affect you, both on and off duty.

| HAZARDOUS WASTE   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| CHARACTERISTIC  | DESCRIPTION                                      | EXAMPLES                                |
|  <b>IGNITABLE</b> | CATCHES FIRE AT LESS THAN 140 DEGREES F          | THINNER OR KEROSENE                     |
|  <b>CORROSIVE</b> | PH LESS THAN 2, OR GREATER THAN OR EQUAL TO 12.5 | SULFURIC ACID OR SPENT BLEACH           |
|  <b>REACTIVE</b>  | VIOLENT CHEMICAL CHANGE                          | LITHIUM BATTERIES                       |
|  <b>TOXIC</b>     | POSE A HEALTH HAZARD                             | PHOTOCHEMICALS, SOLVENTS, OR PESTICIDES |

## HAZARDOUS MATERIAL AND HAZARDOUS WASTE

OPERATIONS CONDUCTED ABOARD OUR installations consume resources, use hazardous materials and produce waste that – if not properly managed – can affect your health and welfare. You must be aware of the hazards that come from working with hazardous material and waste. By minimizing the hazardous material you use, you can make your workplace safer and help to reduce the amount of hazardous waste your installation produces.

A hazardous material is any product or chemical that could be hazardous to human health or the environment. A hazardous material is a usable product (not contaminated or expired shelf-life). Some examples of hazardous materials are oil, paint, paint remover and gasoline. Use the Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) provided by the vendor/supply office to get information on how to properly handle the hazardous material you are using.

You should become familiar with your installation's Hazardous Consolidation Program, discussed in more detail on page 7, that minimizes the use and disposal of hazardous materials. A hazardous waste is any hazardous material or product that can no longer be reused for its intended purpose. Hazardous wastes have very specific handling procedures because of the risks they present to human health and the environment. Your supervisor will schedule you for specific training and provide standard operating procedures on how to handle hazardous waste.

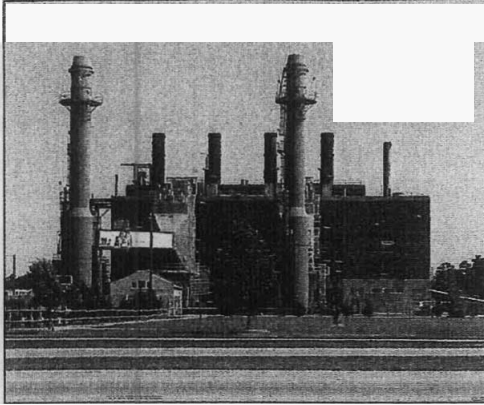
In a typical shop or work center, hazardous waste is accumulated in a Satellite Accumulation Area. These areas are intermediate storage areas where shops can temporarily store up to 55 gallons of hazardous waste before it must be moved to a 90-day storage site or shipped off-site for disposal. Do not mix different waste types or products. All containers must be clearly labeled and inspected often for evidence of drips or leaks. You should clean up small spills immediately and know what actions to take in the event of a large spill.

Follow all standard operating procedures, installation orders, and local procedures when using hazardous materials or disposing of hazardous waste. Contact your unit environmental coordinator or the environmental office for specific guidance.

### REMEMBER!

- ✓ Do not dump hazardous materials or hazardous waste.
- ✓ Properly label containers.
- ✓ Inspect often.





## AIR QUALITY

CLEAN AIR IS VITAL FOR OUR EXISTENCE. DEGRADED AIR quality can impact both human health and the environment and can lead to serious problems such as damage to the ozone layer and smog. Vehicles, emergency generators, boilers, and operations conducted aboard our installations that use fuel, paints and solvents all produce air emissions that can contribute to poor air quality. Vehicles and equipment frequently have air pollution controls installed that reduce the amount of air emissions produced. By maintaining equipment and vehicles in proper operating condition, closing containers, cleaning up spills, and minimizing fuel use, you can help to reduce air pollution and improve air quality both at work and at home.

- ✓ Use only approved fuels, cleaners, paints and solvents.
- ✓ Close container lids when not in use.
- ✓ Know how to operate equipment properly.

## WATER QUALITY

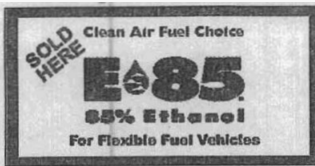
CLEAN AND DEPENDABLE WATER RESOURCES ARE essential for the operation of our Marine Corps installations. Drinking water and water used for installation activities are obtained from reservoirs, rivers, and/or groundwater. Stormwater from our installations flow to nearby water bodies that are used for recreational activities and by wildlife species. Protection of these water sources is essential for the health, safety, and enjoyment of all who use it.

Activities such as aircraft and vehicle refueling, wash rack operations, fertilizer and pesticide use, and chemical storage can have major impacts on water quality. It is important to follow standard operating procedures for these activities to protect the water quality. Be sure to watch for and immediately clean up leaks or small spills. If you use materials that could potentially contaminate stormwater, know what actions to take in the event of a spill and whom to contact. Be especially careful that fuel, wash water, or vehicle fluids do not drain into water ways.

### REMEMBER!

- ✓ Clean up spills and leaks immediately!
- ✓ Follow SOPs.
- ✓ Know whom to notify if there is a spill.





## INITIATIVES TO GREEN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINES HAVE ALWAYS STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF operations that minimize excess. Both on and off the battlefield, this concept dictates the wise use and care of all our resources. Marine Corps pollution prevention and resource conservation programs focus on minimizing material use and waste generation, recycling both hazardous and non-hazardous items, and conserving water and energy. These programs help reduce costs, improve the health and working/living conditions of our Marines, their families and our workforce. These initiatives minimize the impact our operations have on the environment and contribute to the long-term sustainability of our installations.

The *Hazardous Material Consolidation* program reduces the use of hazardous chemicals by centrally managing their distribution and minimizing the types and quantities purchased. Only authorized users may order hazardous material for approved uses. Hazardous material not needed by one unit can be returned and reissued to another unit or department. This saves the cost of new material and the expense of waste disposal.

## POLLUTION PREVENTION

*Integrated Solid Waste Management* programs promote recycling and conserve valuable raw materials by diverting solid waste from disposal in landfills or by incineration. Marines actively recycle construction and demolition debris, used oil and batteries, wood, paper, and metal, including demilitarized ordnance scrap metal. The net proceeds from installation qualified recycling programs benefit USMC community service and natural resource programs.

*Marine Corps Energy and Water Conservation* programs help reduce the overall water and energy use at our installations. These programs also reduce air pollution emissions, conserve water, and save a significant amount of money in utility costs.

The *Green Procurement* program promotes the purchasing of environmentally friendly products. Examples include alternatively fueled vehicles, energy efficient equipment, renewable products and materials with recycled content. Purchasing these products lessens our impact on the environment and helps expand the market for recycled materials.







## NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

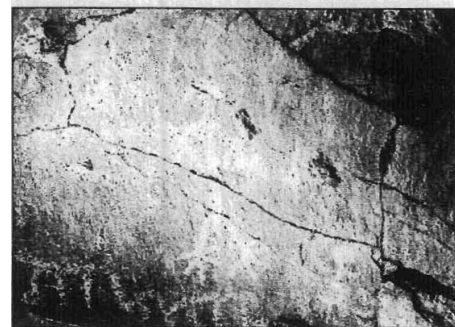
MARINE CORPS NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAMS SUPPORT the Marine Corps mission by preserving and maintaining access to training lands and managing protected resources. Watersheds, wetlands, natural landscapes, soils, forests and the wildlife and vegetation that live in these ecosystems, provide the Marines with realistic training environments. Best management practices are integrated into range operations to ensure that these natural resources are protected and available to support Marine Corps training in the future.

- ✓ Protect these resources for future generations of Marines.
- ✓ Follow all procedures and guidelines.
- ✓ Learn about these resources and enjoy them with your family and friends.

Cultural Resource Conservation programs focus on the management and protection of historic and archaeological resources including objects of significance in history, architecture and our heritage. Much of the land we own is considered sacred ground by Native Americans and Native Hawaiians who not only lived here at one time, but whose ancestors are buried here. We must respect and protect the history and heritage of those who used this land before us.

Environmental offices provide outreach programs and other helpful information on the unique natural and cultural resources located on your base. They can also provide information on hunting and fishing licensing requirements and on opportunities to participate in service projects that enhance wildlife habitats such as beach cleanups, invasive weed removals, and dune plantings.

Natural and cultural resources contribute to the quality and realism of training aboard our installations. By following established procedures and posted signs during maneuver and training exercises, Marines can prevent soil erosion, allow degraded training areas to recover, and help protect sensitive plant and animal species and historic and archeological resources.





## SUMMARY

MARINE CORPS ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE, Pollution Prevention, and Conservation programs support the Marine Corps mission by preserving and maintaining our training lands and safeguarding the health of our Marines, their families and our workforce. Each Marine Corps installation has an environmental office that can provide additional training and assistance with other environmental requirements. Remember that requirements can vary slightly from one installation to another, especially overseas. If you are new to a unit or are unsure of a requirement, ask your unit environmental coordinator or contact your installation's environmental office for guidance.

## STEWARDSHIP OF THE RESOURCES ENTRUSTED TO US BY OUR NATION

requires a serious commitment and environmental awareness at every level of the chain of command. Every Marine, civilian, and family member plays an important part in helping to achieve the Marine Corps environmental management objectives. Environmental requirements are integrated into your daily activities and documented in training, shop and range procedures or posted signs. By taking personal responsibility to follow these guidelines, you help to make sure all environmental requirements are met as you perform your Marine Corps mission!

### KNOW YOUR ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES!

- ✓ Follow established procedures and posted rules and signs.
- ✓ Attend required training.
- ✓ Operate equipment properly.
- ✓ Know what to do and whom to contact in the event of an emergency.
- ✓ Ask if you do not know something!